

A Commitment to Transparency and Responsibility

□

As a new member of the Appropriations Committee in 2008, I committed to reform the earmark process – a process which, in my view, was broken. I immediately took steps to ensure my earmark request process set a standard of responsibility. Though all of the policies I adopted for continued openness and transparency have not been adopted in a bipartisan way, I will persist in pushing for reform to the earmark process in the committee.

It is Congress's constitutional responsibility to direct federal spending. I continue to believe a Member of Congress who is familiar with the needs and capabilities of his or her district is better equipped to determine the worthiness of federal projects in the region than an unelected Washington bureaucrat – provided those projects are awarded through an open and transparent process with specific and publicly defined standards.

On March 11, 2010, I joined my Republican colleagues in instituting a one-year moratorium on all earmarks for fiscal year 2011.

The process of Congressional earmarking of funds for specific projects remains a controversial topic, not only in Washington, but throughout the country as well. While the actual amount of earmarked funding has historically been less than 2% of the total discretionary budget, both the

public and media perception linking earmarks to the deficit or to campaign contributions is troubling.

I firmly believe this was a necessary step to restore some measure of public confidence in a system perceived to be flawed and broken. This new policy will allow House Republicans to spend the next several months coming up with a more open, transparent and respected process by which Congress can resume our Constitutional role in appropriating your tax dollars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Bonner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

For a list of Congressman Bonner's fiscal year 2009 funded appropriations requests, please [click here](#) 

For a list of Congressman Bonner's fiscal year 2010 funded appropriations projects, please [click here](#)